

# ABAG Surveys General Assembly Participants on Strategies for a Sustainable Bay Area

## Results Show General Consensus on 8 Action Items

On Friday, April 23, 1999, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and The Commonwealth Club of California co-hosted the Spring 1999 General Assembly in San Francisco. The program focused on the issue of sustainable development throughout the Bay Area. Participants included elected officials and staff from the Bay Area's nine counties and 100 cities, staff from regional, state and federal agencies, business leaders, and representatives of non-profit organizations.

At the meeting, participants were presented with the draft *Compact for a Sustainable Bay Area*, an action plan that lists 67 proposed commitments in eight areas considered critical to preserving the environmental, economic and social attributes of the region for future generations. The draft *Compact* was developed by the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development, a multi-stakeholder coalition whose members represent the three essential E's of sustainability - economy, environment and social equity - plus government at all levels.

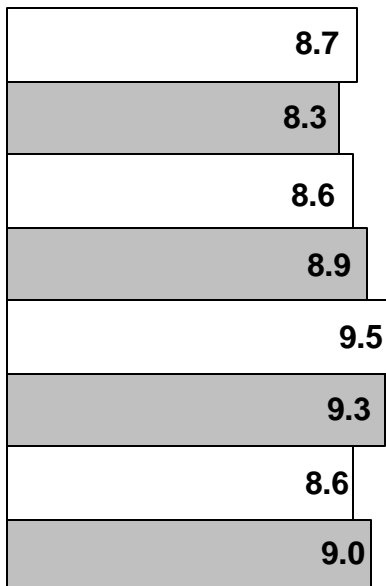
Guest speakers discussed the significance of the eight topics, including housing supply; transportation system investments; San Francisco Bay, open space, habitats and farmland; neighborhood revitalization; quality education and lifelong learning; resource efficiency and waste reduction; local government finance; and civic engagement.

After a discussion period, the participants were asked to register their level of support for each of the 8 major topics and 67 recommended commitments using hand-held electronic keypads and an OptionFinder™ software system. Results were graphically displayed on a large screen for immediate review.

View the voting results and see which items received a broad consensus.

## General Assembly voting on the 8 major topics produced the following results:

### SUPPORT LEVELS: (1=least, 10=most)



### ACTION ITEMS:

1. Accommodate Sufficient Housing Affordable to All Income Levels Within the Bay Area to Match Population Increases and Job Generation.
2. Target Transportation System Investment to Support Efficient Land Use and Decrease Dependence on Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trips.
3. Preserve and Restore San Francisco Bay and the Region's Habitat, Farmland and Open Space.
4. Focus Investment to Preserve and Revitalize Neighborhoods.
5. Provide All Residents with the Opportunity for Quality Education and Lifelong Learning.
6. Use Resources Efficiently and Eliminate Waste.
7. Implement Local Government Fiscal Reforms and Revenue Sharing.
8. Stimulate Civic Engagement.

Participants used this scale to indicate their level of support for the proposed commitments:

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Strongly oppose		Mostly oppose		Somewhat oppose	Somewhat support		Mostly support		Strongly support

**The following results compare the overall scores to locally elected officials' scores on the 8 major topics and 67 commitments contained in the draft *Compact*.**

## A COMMITMENT TO ACTION

### Average Scores:

ALL voters (145)	City Elected Officials (41)	County Elected Officials (6)	
<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>6.8</u>	<b>1. Accommodate Sufficient Housing Affordable to All Income Levels Within the Bay Area to Match Population Increases and Job Generation.</b>
<u>8.8</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.0</u>	A. Reach out to financial institutions to encourage diverse housing types and mixed-use investments at transit-supportive densities within urban areas, near transit, which reuse underutilized or deteriorated areas.
<u>8.2</u>	<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.0</u>	B. Work with local community organizations to learn about their needs for housing and services, including needs of the homeless, and encourage community organizations to participate in planning, advocacy and implementation.
<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>9.0</u>	C. Advocate in support of mixed-density and mixed-income residential development particularly in areas with transit and other services.
<u>7.4</u>	<u>6.9</u>	<u>8.5</u>	D. Support efforts to use existing housing stock efficiently, by encouraging second units, group housing and similar mechanisms.
<u>7.9</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>8.7</u>	E. Support community-based efforts to retain and expand the supply of existing affordable housing and the adoption of measures to prevent displacement.
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.1</u>	<u>8.5</u>	F. Advocate local government actions, such as amending general plans and zoning and providing incentives such as permit fast tracking, to encourage affordable housing development, especially near transit.
<u>8.2</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>8.3</u>	G. Advocate changes in federal and state legislation to provide incentives for the development of resource efficient, affordable housing near transit, community services and places of employment and to address barriers such as construction defect litigation.
<u>9.0</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>9.8</u>	H. Encourage the location of jobs near places where workforce housing exists, and link jobs and housing with convenient, affordable transit service.
<u>7.4</u>	<u>7.1</u>	<u>8.8</u>	I. Establish an Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to assist jurisdictions in providing their fair share of affordable housing.
<u>8.9</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>9.0</u>	J. Support existing fair housing laws and prohibitions against discrimination in housing.
<u>8.1</u>	<u>7.9</u>	<u>8.8</u>	K. Support state legislative reform to improve the fair share housing process and provide financial and other incentives to strengthen local jurisdictions' abilities to meet their fair share responsibilities.

<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>7.5</u>	<b>2. Target Transportation System Investment to Support Efficient Land Use and Decrease Dependence on Single-Occupancy Vehicle Trips.</b>
<u>7.4</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>6.6</u>	A. Advocate that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and others continue to allocate a larger share of future funds toward capital improvements for and operations of public transportation.
<u>8.1</u>	<u>8.1</u>	<u>7.8</u>	B. Work to assure that transportation improvements are linked to compact land use patterns at transit-supportive densities, and to environmental protection.
<u>8.9</u>	<u>9.1</u>	<u>8.8</u>	C. Support efforts to improve the efficiency, coordination and affordability of transit services.
<u>8.1</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>8.0</u>	D. Encourage the restoration of transit service to under-served neighborhoods, including during non-commute times.
<u>8.0</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>7.4</u>	E. Encourage the development of a regional water transportation system that is seamlessly integrated into all other public transportation systems while enhancing the surrounding neighborhoods.
<u>7.8</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>7.2</u>	F. Advocate that MTC continue giving priority to, and where feasible expand funding for, the repair, maintenance and improvement of existing freeways over the development of new ones while increasing the amounts allocated for public transportation.
<u>7.8</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>9.5</u>	G. Support the implementation of congestion pricing that does not unduly burden vulnerable populations, and use the revenue generated to improve transit alternatives and affordability.
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.4</u>	<u>6.8</u>	H. Advocate for a safe, convenient network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities that link residential, commercial, recreational and other uses, and connect with transit.
<u>7.2</u>	<u>7.6</u>	<u>6.0</u>	I. Support the continuing efforts of MTC to conduct an equity analysis of the Regional Transportation Plan process and consider the social equity impact of new transportation investments.
<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>9.7</u>	<b>3. Preserve and Restore San Francisco Bay and the Region's Habitat, Farmland and Open Space.</b>
<u>8.5</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>9.3</u>	A. Support efforts to protect and restore the Bay-Delta Estuary
<u>7.6</u>	<u>7.4</u>	<u>8.0</u>	B. Support an open space initiative/regional bond measure.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>9.5</u>	C. Address the particular needs for open space, environmental cleanup, and resource protection and promote environmental responsibility in urban areas and low-income neighborhoods.
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>10.0</u>	D. Develop plans to set priorities for natural resource preservation, including wetlands restoration and preservation, informed by best available science.
<u>7.9</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>9.8</u>	E. Support coordinated advocacy efforts to obtain funds for planning, acquisition, and stewardship incentives.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>9.0</u>	F. Advocate incentives for landowners to practice good environmental stewardship.
<u>8.5</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.5</u>	G. Work with farmers to develop policies and incentives that promote environmentally-responsible agricultural practices.
<u>7.8</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>9.2</u>	H. Coordinate land acquisition efforts with environmental and community-based organizations.
<u>7.6</u>	<u>7.6</u>	<u>9.0</u>	I. Link land protection/management programs to local economic development and employment efforts, including assistance to family farmers and farm workers.

<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>9.8</u>	J.	Support urban growth boundaries, provided that complementary policies and incentives are adopted that ensure that new jobs generated and needed housing are accommodated within the boundaries.
<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>9.0</u>	K.	Implement strategies to reduce water pollution, especially non-point source run-off, and promote watershed management practices for the Bay and associated waterways.
<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>8.8</u>	L.	Reduce air pollution, especially from mobile sources.
<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.9</u>	<u>8.5</u>	M.	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
<u>8.9</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>9.5</u>	<b>4.</b>	<b>Focus Investment to Preserve and Revitalize Neighborhoods.</b>
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>9.8</u>	A.	Recruit community and Bay Area business leaders to participate in developing and adopting a Community Investment Program (“Capital for Communities”).
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>9.6</u>	B.	Encourage economic development organizations in the region to invest in stimulating local entrepreneurship in identified neighborhoods that are in decline or at risk, while minimizing resident displacement.
<u>8.5</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>9.2</u>	C.	Work to assure that environmental, housing and infrastructure problems that discourage investment in these neighborhoods are addressed, including training and incentives for self-help neighborhood projects.
<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.4</u>	<u>9.2</u>	D.	Support and strengthen community-based financial institutions to facilitate neighborhood revitalization in low-income communities.
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>9.2</u>	E.	Work with service providers to assure adequate job training and support programs for local residents.
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>9.4</u>	F.	Encourage business incubators, and vendors and suppliers to regional growth- industry clusters to locate in impoverished neighborhoods to complement local entrepreneurship.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>9.4</u>	G.	Encourage employers to recruit, hire, and train currently unemployed or underemployed welfare recipients and the working poor for jobs with career and income growth potential.
<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>8.5</u>	H.	Ensure that new industrial development is compatible with neighborhood and community needs.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>8.8</u>	I.	Advocate for performance-based “good neighbor agreements” that ensure worker and neighborhood health and safety.
<u>9.5</u>	<u>9.8</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<b>5.</b>	<b>Provide All Residents with the Opportunity for Quality Education and Lifelong Learning.</b>
<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.5</u>	<u>9.3</u>	A.	Support school reform programs and state and local school bond issues, consistent with sustainable community development.
<u>8.9</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>8.8</u>	B.	Support mentoring programs.
<u>9.4</u>	<u>9.7</u>	<u>10.0</u>	C.	Encourage parental involvement.
<u>8.8</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>9.0</u>	D.	Link employer-based work force development to the schools, including technical and vocational schools, to ensure students have both basic education and job skills.
<u>8.1</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.5</u>	E.	Advocate education for sustainable living including environmentally-responsible consumption.

<u>9.3</u>	<u>9.7</u>	<u>8.4</u>	<b>6. Use Resources Efficiently and Eliminate Waste.</b>
<u>8.1</u>	<u>7.9</u>	<u>5.7</u>	A. Seek tax and other incentives to encourage producers and consumers to minimize the environmental impact associated with their energy and resource use.
<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.0</u>	B. Encourage high quality design and “green” building materials through a cooperative effort involving industry, government and community organizations.
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>7.0</u>	C. Emphasize the use of goods and services produced and transported in an environmentally and socially responsible fashion.
<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>8.4</u>	D. Encourage more resource-efficient production and construction processes.
<u>9.1</u>	<u>9.7</u>	<u>8.4</u>	E. Support local and regional recycling and resource recovery programs.
<u>8.8</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>8.4</u>	F. Encourage the use of energy and water efficient technologies in new building design and retrofit of residential, business and institutional facilities.
<u>9.1</u>	<u>9.4</u>	<u>7.8</u>	G. Encourage the increased use of renewable energy resources.
<u>8.6</u>	<u>9.1</u>	<u>9.0</u>	<b>7. Implement Local Government Fiscal Reforms and Revenue Sharing.</b>
<u>8.9</u>	<u>9.2</u>	<u>9.2</u>	A. Advocate changes in state legislation to provide local governments with adequate and stable tax revenues.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.4</u>	<u>9.5</u>	B. Establish cooperative, rather than competitive, economic development programs at the subregional and regional levels.
<u>8.0</u>	<u>7.8</u>	<u>8.2</u>	C. Encourage local governments to work together to determine how to allocate and share tax revenues.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.0</u>	<u>8.0</u>	D. Support expansion and strengthening of existing sub-regional and regional co-operative land-use planning efforts.
<u>8.1</u>	<u>8.2</u>	<u>7.8</u>	E. Support legislative reforms that reduce the fiscalization of land use.
<u>9.0</u>	<u>9.3</u>	<u>9.4</u>	<b>8. Stimulate Civic Engagement.</b>
<u>8.0</u>	<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.5</u>	A. Engage local residents and community organizations as equal partners in planning, development, and investment decisions.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.7</u>	<u>9.6</u>	B. Seek opportunities to support and participate in local neighborhood social and cultural events.
<u>8.4</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>6.5</u>	C. Promote sustainability education throughout the region, within inner city and suburban communities alike.
<u>8.3</u>	<u>8.9</u>	<u>7.8</u>	D. Support efforts to provide needed services, such as child care, in neighborhoods and at places of employment so that people have time to participate in community events and decisions.
<u>8.6</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>7.8</u>	E. Continue to actively engage in ongoing multi-stakeholder dialog to address regional sustainability issues.
<u>8.5</u>	<u>8.8</u>	<u>8.2</u>	F. Work with others to enhance understanding of the concept of sustainability and the interdependence of the economy, environment and social equity.
<u>8.5</u>	<u>8.6</u>	<u>7.8</u>	G. Support a continued analysis of other metropolitan regional models of cooperation.
<u>9.0</u>	<u>8.9</u>	<u>8.8</u>	H. Encourage and support ongoing models of cooperation in the Bay Area.